AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method of annotating verb-clitic form segments in a lexicon, the method comprising:

> defining, for a segment, final segment data indicative of whether the segment must appear
>> in a final position of any verb-clitic words formed using the segment; and
> annotating the segment using the defined final segment data.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, and further comprising:

> defining, for the segment, segment association data indicative of valid combinations of
>> the segment with other types of segments to form verb-clitic words; and
> annotating the segment using the segment association data.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the segment is a clitic form segment, and wherein the step of defining segment association data further comprises defining the segment association data such that it is indicative of classes of clitic hosts variants to which the clitic form segment can appropriately be attached.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the segment is a clitic pair form segment, the method further comprising:

> defining, for the segment, word break data indicative of a word break location in the clitic
>> pair form segment; and
> annotating the segment using the word break data.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the segment is a clitic host variant, the method further comprising:

> defining, for the segment, verification data indicative of whether the clitic host variant must be combined with a clitic segment to form a valid word; and
>
> annotating the segment using the verification data.

20. (original) A method of combining first and second verb-clitic form segments from a lexicon to form a verb-clitic word, the method comprising:

> determining whether absence of final segment data associated with the first verb-clitic form segment indicates that the first verb-clitic form segment cannot be a final segment of the verb-clitic word;
>
> determining whether final segment data associated with the second verb-clitic form segment indicates that the second verb-clitic form segment must be the final segment of the verb-clitic word; and
>
> combining the first and second verb-clitic form segments from the lexicon to form the verb-clitic word only if it is determined that the first verb-clitic form segment cannot be the final segment and that the second verb-clitic form segment must be the final segment.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, and further comprising:

> determining from clitic class data associated with the respective first and second verb-clitic form segments whether the first and second verb-clitic form segments share at least one of a plurality of different clitic class associations; and
>
> combining the first and second verb-clitic form segments from the lexicon to form the verb-clitic word only if it is determined that the first and second verb-clitic form segments share at least one of the plurality of different clitic class associations.

22. (new) A tangible computer storage medium having stored thereon computer readable instructions for performing steps of a method of annotating verb-clitic form segments in a lexicon, comprising:

    defining, for a segment, final segment data indicative of whether the segment must appear in a final position of any verb-clitic words formed using the segment; and

    annotating the segment using the defined final segment data.

23. (new) The tangible computer storage medium of claim 22, the steps further comprising:

    defining, for the segment, segment association data indicative of valid combinations of the segment with other types of segments to form verb-clitic words; and

    annotating the segment using the segment association data.

24. (new) The tangible computer storage medium of claim 23, wherein the segment is a clitic form segment, and wherein the step of defining segment association data further comprises defining the segment association data such that it is indicative of classes of clitic hosts variants to which the clitic form segment can appropriately be attached.

25. (new) The tangible computer storage medium of claim 23, wherein the segment is a clitic pair form segment, the steps further comprising:

    defining, for the segment, word break data indicative of a word break location in the clitic pair form segment; and

    annotating the segment using the word break data.

26. (new) The tangible computer storage medium of claim 23, wherein the segment is a clitic host variant, the steps further comprising:

    defining, for the segment, verification data indicative of whether the clitic host variant must be combined with a clitic segment to form a valid word; and

    annotating the segment using the verification data.